



Van Buren Conservation District  
1035 E. Michigan Avenue  
Paw Paw, MI 49079  
(269) 657-4030 ext. 5  
(269) 657-4925 fax

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**Black River Watershed Project**  
Steering Committee Minutes  
10:00 a.m. Thursday, September 21, 2006  
Columbia Township Hall  
53053 County Road 388, Grand Junction

ATTENDANCE: John Lindahl, Marcy Colclough, Tina Clemons, Chris Bauer, Bob Richardson, Beth Clawson, Dave Nicholson, Joe Parman, Becky Rininger, Pete Ter Louw, Bill Hinz, Sam Ewbank, Erin Fuller

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 10:06 a.m.

**BUSINESS**

- Local match: Fuller asked attendees to provide her with local match reports if they had incurred any time working on the project.
- Watershed Short Course and Watershed Expo: Fuller distributed short course brochures and asked for assistance in spreading the word about the course. She and Colcough also discussed the community watershed expo that will fall on the last evening of the course, and asked if anyone was interested in having a display at the expo.
- Tasks in this quarter – Newsletters: Fuller reported that she has developed and distributed a watershed newsletter, and the Southwestern Michigan Commission has developed the first edition of a Low Impact Development newsletter. Fuller distributed the LID News to the municipalities in the watershed.
- Tasks in this quarter – Watershed workshops: Fuller reported that the Van Buren Conservation District held the first in a series of 9 watershed workshops. She asked the group for suggestions for future workshops, and reported that the next workshop will likely focus on wetlands.
- Tasks in this quarter – Bangor project: Fuller reported that after a brief delay due to a DEQ engineering review not being completed, the Bangor streambank restoration and raingarden project is underway.
- Upcoming tasks – Assessment tool: Fuller distributed a draft watershed assessment spreadsheet that she has begun to develop to assess if the watershed management plan is being implemented, and asked the group for input. Several suggestions were given, such as adding a column on what additional action is needed to move the task ahead.



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- Upcoming tasks – Volunteer water monitoring: Fuller asked for input on devising a volunteer monitoring program in the watershed. She also noted an upcoming volunteer monitoring conference. Suggestions included using information that is already collected (such as by the Hutchins Lake Association) and compiled by the Michigan Clean Water Corps. Other watershed groups have also used wastewater treatment plants to do water quality sampling.
- Upcoming tasks – Surveys and evaluations: Fuller reported that as part of this grant, there is a component that includes surveying watershed residents on water quality knowledge and issues. She asked for ideas and input on this task. Suggestions included surveying local officials at the beginning and end of the project.
- Upcoming tasks – Land Protection Committee: Ter Louw discussed the land protection committee that he will be forming as part of the Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy's commitment to this project. He asked for names of people that may be interested in joining this committee.
- Upcoming tasks – Planning and zoning review: Fuller asked for ideas on how to implement this review process. The review will be provided to four watershed communities, so a method for choosing those communities will need to be developed. One method of ranking communities may be by how much land they have in the watershed.

#### OTHER BUSINESS

SCHEDULE OF NEXT MEETING – 10:00 a.m. Thursday, December 14, 2006 at Columbia Township Hall.

ADJOURN: The meeting adjourned at 11:04 a.m.

MINUTES SUBMITTED by Erin Fuller